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MRS. JOHN L. WOODBURY  
WEISSINGER-GAULBERT  
LOUISVILLE, KY.

# Battle of Atlanta

Story of the Cyclorama  
Johnston-Sherman Campaign  
~ ~ ~ and ~ ~ ~  
History of the Engine "Texas"



NELSON CRIST  
Superintendent of Construction  
Grant Park  
1919









ATLANTA FROM THE SKY.



G. V. GRESS

Who purchased the Cyclorama and gave it to the people of Atlanta.  
The Cyclorama painting is now valued at \$100,000.00.



# Battle of Atlanta

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Story of the Cyclorama  
Johnston-Sherman Campaign  
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## GENERAL SHERMAN'S ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

During the latter part of 1863 the Federal authorities at Washington conceived two grand military designs; one having for its object the capture of Richmond, the Confederate capital, and the other the capture of Atlanta in the heart of the Confederacy.

The capture of Atlanta would be a fatal blow to the Confederate cause and a re-animation of the North.

Atlanta was the most important manufacturing center in the South; it was the gate-way for the network of railroads extending to all parts of the Gulf States and the South Atlantic Seaboard; it was the Gate City through which immense stores of supplies flowed to the armies of Virginia and Tennessee. It commanded the richest granaries of the South, as well as immense cotton trade. As long as Atlanta remained unconquered the war would undoubtedly be prolonged and the result indefinite.

The State of Georgia had not been invaded by any considerable force during the entire period of the war and such an invasion was considered a gigantic undertaking requiring a mighty army and immense stores of supplies and ammunition. General Sherman was, therefore, given an army of about 100,000 men and 250 pieces of artillery. His soldiers were well-seasoned veterans and had seen hard service in other campaigns.

Three armies were united under his command—The Army of the Cumberland, Maj. Gen. Thomas commanding; The Army of the Tennessee, Maj. Gen. McPherson commanding; The Army of the Ohio, Maj. Gen. Schofield commanding.



To oppose this overwhelming force General Joseph E. Johnston on December 27th, 1863, assumed command of the Confederate army at Dalton. By the first of May, 1864, he had an effective army of 41,000 infantry and artillery and 4,500 cavalry under General Joe Wheeler. While he was greatly outnumbered and had no prospect of obtaining any considerable number of recruits, he had the advantage of being on familiar soil and in the heart of a friendly country. His army was also in excellent condition, having



BATTLE OF ATLANTA  
Georgia Railroad torn up.

been made so by the admirable skill, indefatigable energy and military genius of General Johnston.

During the first days of May and simultaneously with General Grant's onward movement in Virginia, General Sherman began his march which has been celebrated in American history. The Federal advance was in three columns; Thomas moving in front direct upon Johnston's center at Dalton, with his advance at Ringgold and at Tun-



nell Hill; Schofield from Cleveland, Tenn., via Red Clay on the Georgia line to unite with Thomas; and McPherson by a flank movement of some fifty miles upon Johnston's line of communication at Resaca at the junction of the Oostanaula River and the W. & A. Railroad. This flanking movement by General McPherson had the effect of forcing Johnston to evacuate Dalton and retire to Resaca, where on May 14th two partial engagements were fought in which the Federals were defeated with a loss of 2,000 men. Neither commander designed to fight a general engagement at this time, but were feeling out the strength of one another and developing their respective lines.

On account of Sherman's overwhelming numbers General Johnston adopted a Fabian policy and continued to fall back at leisure until circumstances would put the chances of battle more favorable. By continually falling back and giving battle at opportune times, he hoped to take advantage of positions and opportunities to reduce the tremendous odds against him.

On May 25th the Federal advance under General Hooker fought a hot two hours battle with the Confederates under General Stewart at New Hope Church. Then followed two days of skirmishes and desultory fighting.

On May 27th Cleburne's division of Hardee's corps made a dash at McPherson at Dallas, killing 600 Federals with minor losses for the Confederates.

These sharp encounters were of little significance as it was evidently not the intention of Sherman to risk a general battle in trying to force the pass at Altoona, which was the object of these battles. He seemed to be developing his lines on Johnston's flank. This proved to be his object when on May 30th his left had reached the railroad at Marietta.

Johnston consequently abandoned his position at New Hope Church and took up strong positions at Kennesaw, Pine and Lost Mountains. The impregnable battlements covered the railroad back to the Chattahoochee River. Gen-



eral Johnston disposed of his forces with consummate skill—General Hood's corps with its right on the Marietta and Canton roads, Loring's on Kennesaw Mountain and Hardee's with its left extending across Lost Mountain and the Marietta Road. Cheatham's and Cleburne's division were moved up to Kennesaw Mountain which was the apex of Johnston's lines. General Johnston calmly waited for Sherman to attack, which he did on the morning of June 27th. General Thomas and McPherson were ordered to attack John-



BATTLE OF ATLANTA  
Scene from Cyclorama

ston's left center at Kennesaw Mountain. The Federals were raked with a torrent of shot and shell. The battle raged along the entire lines of both armies. The result was a bloody repulse for Sherman's forces. Three thousand Federals were killed, besides the wounded and prisoners. The total loss to the Confederates was 500.

A National Cemetery is located at Marietta, twenty miles from Atlanta, where thousands of General Sherman's soldiers are buried.



The Confederate General, Leonadas Polk, was killed at Lost Mountain. A monument has been erected to his memory on top of the mountain. General Polk was a brave soldier, a good man and a bishop of the Episcopal Church.

After this terrible defeat at Kennesaw Mountain General Sherman again resorted to maneuvering. On the night of July 2nd he commenced moving his army by the left flank. Johnston anticipated this movement and by the morning of July 3rd had abandoned Kennesaw Mountain and crossed the Chattahoochee River. He established his lines within eight miles of Atlanta, taking up positions on Peachtree Creek and the river below its mouth. The immediate fortifications of Atlanta were strengthened and fortified. The ground chosen by General Johnston was entrenched and was ideally suited for defense operations. Both armies now faced each other for the supreme struggle. It was the crisis of the great campaign.

General Johnston was confident of his ability to withstand the overwhelming forces against him. The chances of battle were favorable to the Confederate army. The odds against Johnston had been reduced by partial engagements. The battles of Resaca, New Hope Church and Kennesaw Mountain were Confederate victories. Johnston had retreated more than one hundred miles through a wild and mountainous country without the loss of a single cannon, or as has been said, "a single grain of corn."

He had inflicted terrible losses to the Federals—a loss of men estimated as five times greater than his own. The strength of his army was unimpaired; its morale never better.

At this critical juncture of affairs, and on July 18th President Jefferson Davis removed Johnston from command and appointed General John B. Hood. The news of the President's act spread over both armies like wild fire. The Confederate army received it with chagrin and consternation. A conflict of opinion has raged ever since the removal of General Johnston. Some historians severely criticise the



Confederate President's act, others commend it. Some hold that Johnston would have broken down the strength of his adversary. While others say that Johnston intended to give up Atlanta without a struggle. There is no evidence that such was his intention. This dispute has resolved itself into one of the "ifs" of history. If Johnston had not been removed, could Sherman have captured Atlanta, thereby breaking the backbone of the Confederacy? If Atlanta



BATTLE OF ATLANTA

Georgia State Troops shown in this picture.

had not been captured, would it have been possible to crush the Confederate states?

When General Hood assumed command, he lost no time in giving battle.

General Sherman had sent two of his corps around Atlanta and cut the Georgia Railroad, thereby severing one line of Confederate communication. General Thomas took up a position on Peachtree Creek directly in front of the Confederate intrenchments. During the afternoon of July



20th while Thomas' right was in marching column, General Hood directed an attack on it, designing to take advantage of the gap in the Federal forces. The Confederate attack was led by General Bates and General Walker of Hardee's corps. The contest was bloody and for a time was very doubtful. It seemed that the Confederates would succeed, but a double fire was brought to bear on their lines along the deep hollow, and the Confederates were forced to retire, which they did in good order. The losses on both sides are estimated at 5,000 men killed and wounded. The Federals numbered 80,000, while the Confederates numbered 45,000. Major Wm. McKinley, afterwards President of the United States, was wounded. He was made a major during this battle. While on a visit to the Atlanta Exposition he was accompanied to the battlefield by Gen. A. J. West, a brave Confederate soldier and now a distinguished citizen of Atlanta. He pointed out the spot where he was wounded.

General James A. Garfield, afterwards President of the United States, also participated in the battles around Atlanta.

On Peachtree road, just this side of the creek, a board has been nailed on a tree indicating the spot where Capt. Evan P. Howell's battery was located. This battery did immense damage to the Federal troops. Capt. Howell was the founder of "The Atlanta Constitution" and formerly Mayor of Atlanta.

This now brings us to the battle of Atlanta proper. The details of this battle are given fully in the description of the Cyclorama "Battle of Atlanta".

On July 21st McPherson moved forward and established a line south and east of Atlanta within three miles of the city limits. His command stretched beyond the Georgia Railroad which he had previously torn up.

On July 22nd the great battle commenced. Hood swung the bulk of his army against McPherson and struck him a heavy blow. McPherson was killed. At this juncture General Cheatham dashed at the Federals and captured six cannon. The tide of battle was running heavily against the



Federal forces. Thousands of men were killed and many pieces of artillery captured. Sherman's line had been forced back at several points and bloody repulses delivered at several sections of the battlefield. At this critical juncture General Sherman ordered General John A. Logan, who had succeeded McPherson, to mass his forces and charge the Confederate center. The Confederate troops gave way losing all the artillery captured during the day. Sixteen thousand men were left dead and dying when night settled on



BATTLE OF ATLANTA

The Troup Hurt House torn with shot and shell.

the frightful scene. Both armies at the end of the conflict held relatively the same ground they occupied before the battle was fought. One hundred and four thousand Federals and forty-two thousand Confederates were engaged.

General Joe Wheeler got in the rear of Sherman at Decatur and captured 700 prisoners and a large wagon train. General Wm. Henry T. Walker of the Confederate army was killed in this battle.



Fort McPherson on the Central Railroad four miles south of Atlanta was named in honor of General McPherson.

Fort Walker in the southeast end of Grant Park was named in honor of General Walker. There is also a monument one mile east of Grant Park erected in his honor.

The breastworks of the battle may be seen in Grant Park, but these breastworks were not used but merely prepared as a reserve line should Hood's forces be defeated.

General Hood's headquarters were located about three-quarters of a mile north of Grant Park on South Boulevard.

General Sherman's headquarters were located near Ponce de Leon Springs, now the Atlanta baseball park, in the old Howard residence. The owner of this house is the father of Congressman Wm. Schley Howard.

General Johnston's headquarters, before he was removed from command, were at 1256 Marietta Street at the old W. G. Herndon place.

The city limits now embrace most of the battle grounds of Peachtree Creek, battle of Atlanta proper and the battle of Ezra Church.

The city at that time had a population of about 10,000. It now has about 200,000.

While the battle of Atlanta was the most sanguinary conflict of this campaign, it was indecisive as to results, as fighting continued around Atlanta. On July 28 the battle of Ezra Church was fought. Seventy thousand Federals and forty thousand Confederates were engaged in this battle, which was sharp, short and bloody. General Alexander P. Stewart of the Confederate army was wounded, and General Ector of Meriwether County lost a leg in this battle. General Hood retired with a loss of 1,500 men killed and wounded. The Federals are said to have lost an equal number. The City of Atlanta now owns ten acres of this old battle ground and is negotiating for the purchase of the balance. It is located four miles west of the heart of the City and may be reached by car lines.

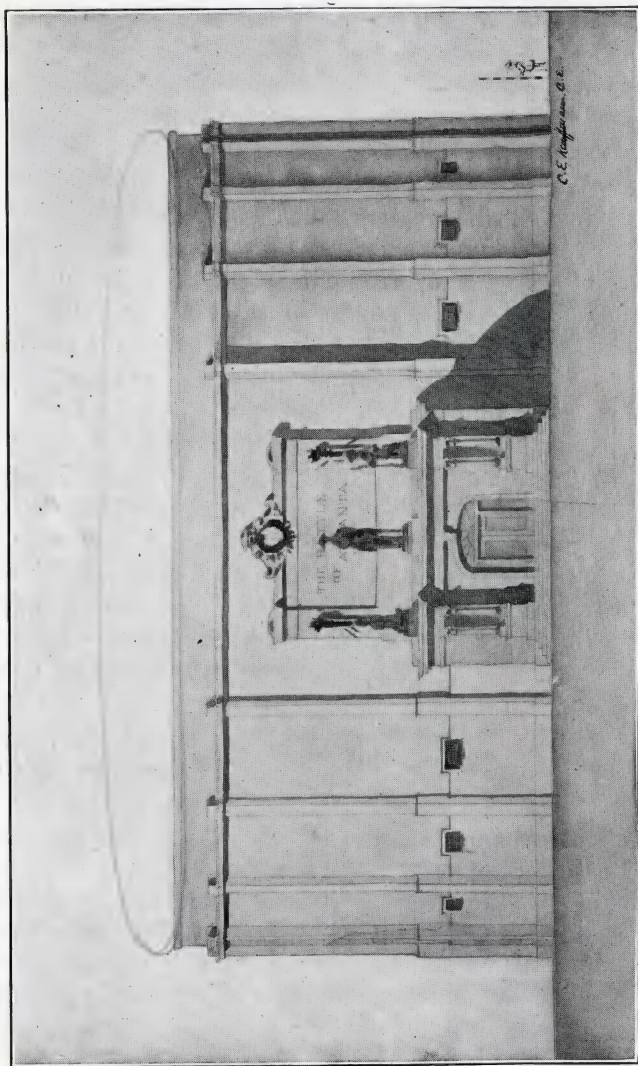
The last battle fought for the possession of Atlanta was at Jonesboro, twenty miles south of Atlanta on the Central Railroad.

On August 31st Hood attacked the Federal Forces which were entrenched on the Flint River and a hard battle was fought. Two thousand Confederate soldiers were killed and wounded.

On the night of September 1st Hardee and Lee's corps, finding themselves about to be outflanked and overwhelmed, retreated south. The fate of Atlanta was sealed. On the morning of September 2nd the army of Sherman entered the doomed city. It is not necessary to long dwell on the hard fate that befell the population. The City was depopulated and burned to the ground—utterly wiped out. A sweeping edict was issued, driving the people from their homes as outcasts and wanderers over the earth. The consequences of this edict were woe, horror, and suffering indescribable. The lurid glare of the burning city lighted the roads for Sherman's forces for miles around. But such is war—ever was—ever will be.

ATLANTA HAS FALLEN! These dread words carried a chill of despondency throughout the Confederacy. It was a terrible blow to the Southern cause. The Confederate star had set. Other battles of the war might be fought and won, the great Captain Robt. E. Lee, might deliver blow after blow and administer bloody defeats to General Grant around Richmond, but all knew that the death knell of Southern hopes had sounded for all time. The fall of Atlanta was not only a calamity to the Southern states, but a catastrophe. It was a fateful day for the Federal Republic. The right of a state to withdraw from the Federal union was denied and the issue settled by the sword. It gave stability to the great Republic—gave it strength to take its place among the nations of the earth.





PROPOSED NEW BUILDING FOR THE CYCLORAMA

## LECTURE ON CYCLORAMA "BATTLE OF ATLANTA"

By J. C. FLEMISTER, Lecturer.

This Cyclorama was brought here about twenty-six years ago from the north and displayed by a northern company. They went into bankruptcy and it sold at a bankruptcy sale to Mr. G. V. Gress, at that time a resident of Atlanta and President of the Board of Park Commissioners, but now of New York City. Mr. Gress gave this painting to the people of Atlanta.

This Cyclorama was painted by three German artists. Their names were Lohr, Lorenze and Heiney, of Leipsig, Germany. They were three years painting this picture. It cost \$37,500.00 and weighs 18,000 Pounds. Eight thousand pounds of paint was used on the canvas. The picture is fifty feet high and four hundred feet in circumference. These artists came to Atlanta a few years after the war. They went over the ground carefully with Federal and Confederate Generals and as a result the picture is historically accurate in every detail. The likeness of the Generals seen on the canvas are true, having been painted from these Generals.

Now this is supposed to be the Georgia Railroad there running east and west. That is west. In the distance there is Atlanta. Two and one-half miles from the old car shed, or Kimball House, going east on the Georgia Railroad was where this battle was fought on July 22nd, 1864. The combatants were the Federals under General Sherman and the Confederates under General Hood. General Sherman had 104,000 men and General Hood had 42,000 men. That was the number engaged in this battle. Sixteen thousand were killed and wounded on both sides together, including a few hundred prisoners in that number.



There, you see, are the breastworks in the rear and the Georgia State troops have ignored the breastworks and have come out in the open and met the Federals.

The Georgia State troops were commanded by Col. Brown, brother of Governor Joseph E. Brown. Col. Brown was killed during the day and Col. Albert Howell, Sr., assumed command of the State troops.



CYCLORAMA, BATTLE OF ATLANTA

I will set you in right that you may better understand the picture. Now all those in blue are the Federals, and those in yellow are the Confederates.

Now that General on the sorrel horse to the left is General Leightburn. His corps is backing up General Martin's corps to the right. That is General Martin on the iron gray horse. Those are his men out there fighting (parallel with those two flags) way out there on the breastworks. In those breastworks is a line of Confederates and a line of

Federals fighting hand to hand all along the front. They are knocking with guns and sticking with bayonets.

The second line you see there (about eight steps in the rear) is backing up the Federals in the breastworks. There are the Confederates on Leggett's hill. They, too, were sending down men into the breastworks whenever it was necessary to do so to strengthen their line.

General Walker, a Confederate General, was killed in that ravine beyond Leggett's hill.

General Joseph E. Brown's men are charging the Federals on Leggett's hill.

In this piece of woods straight in front General McPherson was killed on the same day.

Now, I will give you the names of these Generals near by. That is General Warner on the rearing bay horse; General Morgan L. Smith on the dapple gray horse in the gully; General Mills dashing down the hill on the old white horse, and down there in the powder smoke is General Harrold. All those Generals I have shown you are Federal Generals. I cannot show you the Confederate Generals because they are in the rear of the Federal army and the Confederate line is too far back.

Now you see beyond the Federals the Federal colors, and two Confederate soldiers are trying to take the colors away from the color bearers. Now they painted five determined Confederates a little to the side of the colors. In their eagerness they have run down into the Federal line to fight to a finish. There you see two of them have fallen to the ground and one is falling. Two are left. One with his gun reversed is knocking with the butt of it and the other by his side is sticking with his bayonet. They were forced to fight in this manner as they could not now load their guns. They have knocked out five Federals on this side, the remaining two Confederates have not a shade of a chance for their lives, but would not surrender nor deviate from their promise made to one another.

One of the bravest men I see is a Confederate. You see



him on the hillside trying to load his gun. He is fast passing away from a wound which he has received. He is falling. You see him with one foot hooked around the other leg. He no doubt wants to get his gun loaded so that he may shoot one more time.

All of those horses on the hill and in the valley are Sherman's horses. Sherman had his own horses killed to keep the Confederates from using them to haul away the artillery captured.



BATTLE OF ATLANTA

Gen. John A. Logan in foreground—Gen. McPherson in ambulance.

Those are Confederates down there behind the bales of cotton this side of the artillery and the breastworks. These breastworks were captured by General Henderson's brigade, but Col. Thomas, senior Colonel, was in command, taking the place of General Henderson who was at home wounded.

The body of men just behind the bales of cotton is the old 42nd Georgia regiment.

Col. Thomas can be seen on the large red horse six feet in front of the cannon nearest the ladder.

A continuation of the breastworks, you see, runs across the Georgia Railroad, down behind that house and around to your right.

The house shown was partially erected before the battle, but was badly damaged during the battle by shells. It was the property of Mr. Troup Hurt.

The battery in the rear of the house was DeGress battery (Federal).

When the Confederates captured the breastworks there they captured the battery also, turning two pieces of the artillery back on the enemy.

Now I will show you a pathetic thing. You see the Confederate boy wounded there beyond the branch (just beyond those old clothes) and the Federal soldier giving him water from his canteen. They are brothers. Same father and mother. They were raised under the same roof. But they had different ideas about the war. They volunteered according to their convictions. One volunteered on the Federal side and the other on the Confederate. Hence they met in this manner.

You see this mighty Federal line. You see the fury from the guns. Where are they going? They are going against that flimsy Confederate line over there. You see that flimsy line this side of the breastworks and some standing on top of the breastworks. There too, you see, the reinforcements coming up the hill to strengthen that weakened line.

That is Lost Mountain there to your left.

That is Kennesaw Mountain (that double mountain). They had one day of hard fighting on Kennesaw Mountain. The loss on both sides, killed and wounded, is said to be 4,000.

That small mountain to the left of Kennesaw is Pine Mountain. General Polk was killed on top of that lonely little mountain. A monument has been erected in his honor on the top of this mountain. General Polk was not only a good General, but he was a fine bishop besides.



There is General Mercy whose horse was shot from under him. The General himself was not hurt.

Now I will try to show you General Sherman. You see these two dark pine trees. Over the tops of these pines can be seen two men on horseback. The one farthest out in the open is General Sherman. That is General Sherman's headquarters up in the woods. It is the old Howard house which stood near Ponce de Leon Springs on old Augusta Avenue.

That ambulance you see in front of the building contains the dead body of General McPherson who was killed on Leggett's hill and sent to Sherman's headquarters.

Now there is a noble man. He ran for Vice-President once. John A. Logan, a Federal General, on that black horse. He was next in rank to General McPherson who was killed on the morning of July 22nd. He was put in charge of McPherson's troops.

That is Captain DeGress (the bareheaded man) back of General Logan. He is the man who has charge of the artillery in the rear of the house. He has lost his artillery now.

That is General Force in that wagon, wounded in the head, and is being carried to the hospital.

Now that is how they tore up the Georgia Railroad about forty miles and twisted up the iron like that shown on the ground. All other railroads around Atlanta shared the same fate as this railroad.

In the distance you see Decatur. General Joe Wheeler Confederate General, captured a large wagon train and 700 prisoners down there.

That mountain is Stone Mountain, sixteen miles from Atlanta, on the Georgia Railroad. It is said to be the largest piece of solid granite in the world. It is seven miles around its base and three-quarters of a mile high. It is on comparatively level ground, with no range of mountains near it.

Now that yellow flag, there. That signifies a field hospital. They were obliged to have hospitals of that kind on every battlefield, so that the doctors could see after the wounded. Now you could not get a Confederate soldier to shoot at or near that yellow flag. Why? Because the wounded are there. Neither would a Federal soldier shoot near that yellow flag. Neither side would shoot at an ambulance carrying the wounded.

Now we will show you Abraham Lincoln, the old eagle. He was named for the President of the United States. "Old Abe," we called him. He was given by an Indian to the 8th Wisconsin Regiment, and they detailed a big man from the regiment to carry "Old Abe" on a perch during the war. That old eagle was with Sherman's Army the entire four years of the war. He survived the war and lived for twelve years after, and then died. They built a big monument in honor of "Old Abe," the eagle, and placed it at Madison, the capital of Wisconsin.



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The following data was secured personally from Conductor, afterwards Captain William A. Fuller, Mr. Anthony Murphey and Mr. Henry P. Haney, the last named being still in life, residing at Lithia, Georgia.

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## *The* "TEXAS"

The Locomotive that prevented the destruction of the State Road  
by Federal Raiders in 1862

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By WM. A. FULLER,  
Son of Captain Wm. A. Fuller.

On the night of April 11th, 1862, James J. Andrews, a Union spy and contraband merchant, with twenty volunteers from Sill's Brigade, Mitchel's Division, U. S. A., and a citizen of Salineville, Ohio, all dressed as civilians, rendezvoused at Marietta, Ga. The next morning, the 12th, Andrews and nineteen of the raiders boarded Conductor William A. Fuller's train, and at Big Shanty, now Kennesaw, while the train crew and passengers were breakfasting, seized the locomotive "General" and steamed northward, purposing to destroy the track and bridges in their rear, thereby severing the Confederate Army from its base of supplies.

They were immediately pursued by Conductor Fuller, Engineer Jeff Cain and Anthony Murphey, Foreman of the W. & A. Shops. First on foot, then on a hand car, they reached the Etowah River, where the locomotive "Yonah" was secured, which carried them to Kingston. Here Con-

ductor Fuller and Mr. Murphey pursued with the Rome road engine, "William R. Smith," to a point six miles north, where a break in the track forced them to abandon it.

Fuller and Murphey, continuing afoot for the next three miles, met the "Texas," with its train of freight cars, Peter J. Bracken, Engineer. The cars being left on the Adairsville siding, the "Texas," now in reverse, took up



ENGINE "TEXAS"

Locomotive which ran down and captured the Andrews Raiders who had seized the engine "General" for the purpose of tearing up the W. & A. Railroad. The Andrews Raiders were hanged.

the pursuit, and for fifty miles so pressed the raiders that their attempts at bridge-burning and track destruction came to nothing. Three miles north of Ringgold the "General" was abandoned, lacking wood and water, and the



raiders, escaping to the woods, were subsequently captured.

The pursuing party aboard the "Texas" were:

Conductor William A. Fuller,  
Anthony Murphey, Foreman of W. & A. Shops,  
Engineer Peter J. Bracken,  
Fireman Henry P. Haney,  
Alonzo Martin,  
Fleming Cox,

and from Calhoun to Dalton, Edward Henderson, the telegraph operator, who succeeding in sending Fuller's warning telegram to Chattanooga before the wire was cut.

Andrews, tried as a spy in Chattanooga, was executed in Atlanta, June 7th. Seven of the raiders, tried at Knoxville, Tenn., were executed in Atlanta, June 18th. Eight others escaped from the old prison that stood at the corner of Fraser and Fair Streets, October 16th, 1862, and the remaining six were exchanged from Castle Thunder, Richmond, March, 1863.

The "Texas" was put in the State road service October, 1856, continuing there through many vicissitudes until 1907, when it was removed to Atlanta Yards for the last time. In May, 1911, it was placed (here) in Grant Park as a relic of a most famous Civil War episode, recalling the most thrilling of railroad adventures, and as a memorial to Southern valor.







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